

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENTEE: Lockheed Martin
Corporation

PATENT NO.: 5,898,801

GROUP ART UNIT:

ISSUE DATE: April 27, 1999

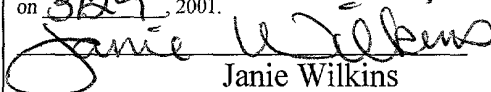
EXAMINER:

TITLE: OPTICAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: L6780/251099

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Washington, D.C. 20231

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Janie Wilkins

DATE: March 29, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as
follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After the title of the invention, please insert:

-- This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No
08/831,375 filed April 1, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,901,260. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 19 to 85.

1 19. A bi-directional optical transport system for passing optical signals,
2 comprising:
3 an optical bus for permitting bi-directional transmission of the optical signals;
4 an electrical-to-optical converter for converting electrical communication signals
5 received from first terminal equipment into optical communication signals;
6 a first passive optical interface device coupled to the optical bus for routing the
7 optical communication signals received from the electrical-to-optical converter onto the
8 optical bus in both directions and for permitting the optical signals traveling along the optical
9 bus to pass by in both directions;
10 a second passive optical interface device coupled to the optical bus for routing the
11 optical communication signals traveling along the bus to an optical-to-electrical converter
12 and for permitting the optical signals traveling along the optical bus to pass by in both
13 directions;
14 an optical amplifier for performing bi-directional amplification of the optical signals;
15 and
16 the optical-to-electrical converter for receiving the optical communication signals
17 from the second passive optical interface device and for converting the optical
18 communication signals into the electrical communication signals, the optical-to-electrical
19 converter for providing the electrical communication signals to second terminal equipment.

1 20. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the optical bus
2 comprises a fiber optic line.

1 21. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 20, further comprising a
2 second fiber optic line wherein the second fiber optic line is a redundant optical bus.

1 22. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the optical bus is
2 a broken ring.

23. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, further comprising a
second optical-to-electrical converter for converting optical signals, received from the first
passive optical interface device over the optical bus, into electrical signals.

1 24. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 23, wherein the second
2 optical-to-electrical converter is for providing the electrical signals to the first terminal
3 equipment.

1 25. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 23, wherein the second
2 optical-to-electrical converter is for providing the electrical signals to third terminal
3 equipment.

1 26. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, further comprising a
2 second electrical-to-optical converter for converting second electrical communication signals
3 into second optical communication signals and for providing the second optical
4 communication signals to the second passive optical interface device, the second passive
5 optical interface device for routing the second optical communication signals received from
6 the second electrical to-optical converter onto the optical bus in both directions.

1 27. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the optical
2 amplifier comprises a fiber amplifier.

3 28. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 27, wherein the fiber
4 amplifier comprise a rare earth doped fiber amplifier.

5 29. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 27, further comprising a
6 pump source for emitting an excitation light received by the optical amplifier.

1 30. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the optical
2 amplifier is located along the optical bus.

1 31. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the optical
2 amplifier is located between the electrical-to-optical converter and the first passive optical
3 interface device.

1 32. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the optical
2 amplifier is located between the second passive optical interface device and the optical-to-
3 electrical converter.

1 33. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the optical
2 communication signals and optical signals are wavelength division multiplexed and the
3 second passive optical interface device includes a wavelength division multiplexer.

1 34. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the first and
2 second passive optical interface devices comprise taps for diverting a fraction of the optical
3 signals and optical communication signals to the optical-to-electrical converter.

1 35. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the second
2 passive optical interface device comprises a tunable filter for filtering the optical
3 communication signals from the optical signals on the bus.

1 36. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the second
2 passive optical interface device includes a filter for filtering the optical communication
3 signals from the optical signals on the bus.

1 37. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the electrical-to-
2 optical converter comprises a directly modulated optical source.

1 38. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the optical-to-
2 electrical converter generates the electrical signals in Mil Std 1553 protocol.

1 39. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the optical-to-
2 electrical converter generates the electrical signals in ARINC 429 protocol.

1 40. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the electrical
2 communication signals comprise tri-level electrical signals, the optical signals comprise bi-
3 level optical signals, the electrical-to-optical converter converts the tri-level electrical signals
4 into bi-level optical signals, and the optical-to-electrical converter converts the bi-level
5 optical signals into the tri-level electrical signals.

6 41. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, further comprising the
7 first terminal equipment.

1 42. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 41, wherein the first terminal
2 equipment comprises video equipment and the electrical communication signals comprise
3 video signals.

1 43. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 41, wherein the first terminal
2 equipment comprises a sensor and the electrical communication signals comprise data
3 signals.

1 44. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the electrical
2 communication signals comprise radio frequency signals.

1 45. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the electrical
2 communication signals comprise Ethernet signals.

1 46. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the electrical
2 communication signals comprise digital signals.

1 47. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the electrical
2 communication signals comprise analog signals.

1 48. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the electrical
2 communication signals comprise discrete signals.

1 49. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 41, wherein the first terminal
2 equipment comprises an input device and the electrical communication signals comprise
3 control signals.

1 50. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 41, wherein the first terminal
2 equipment comprises a workstation.

1 51. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 41, further comprising a
2 translation logic device connected between the first terminal equipment and the first passive
3 optical interface device for performing protocol translation.

1 52. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, further comprising the
2 second terminal equipment.

1 53. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the optical bus
2 forms a ring topology.

3 54. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the electrical-to-
4 optical converter comprises a tuneable laser.

5 55. A structure equipped with an optical transport system enabling optical
6 communications over an optical bus, comprising:

7 the structure;

8 the optical bus for permitting bi-directional transmission of the optical signals,
9 wherein the optical bus is contained at least in part within the structure;

10 first terminal equipment located within the structure for generating electrical
11 communication signals;

12 an electrical-to-optical converter located within the structure for converting the
13 electrical communication signals received from the first terminal equipment into optical
14 communication signals;

11 a first passive optical interface device located within the structure and coupled to the
12 optical bus for routing the optical communication signals received from the electrical-to-
13 optical converter onto the optical bus in both directions and for permitting the optical signals
14 traveling along the optical bus to pass by in both directions;

15 an optical amplifier located within the structure for performing bi-directional
16 amplification of the optical signals;

17 a second passive optical interface device located within the structure and coupled to
18 the optical bus for routing the optical communication signals traveling along the bus to an
19 optical-to-electrical converter and for permitting the optical signals traveling along the
20 optical bus to pass by in both directions;

21 the optical-to-electrical converter for receiving the optical communication signals
22 from the second passive optical interface device and for converting the optical
23 communication signals into the electrical communication signals; and

24 second terminal equipment located within the structure for receiving electrical
25 communication signals from the optical-to-electrical converter.

1 56. The structure as set forth in claim 55, wherein the structure comprises a
2 vehicle.

1 57. The structure as set forth in claim 55, wherein the structure comprises
2 avionics.

1 58. A method for transporting optical signals over an optical bus between first and
2 second nodes, comprising:

3 generating electrical communication signals at a first node;

4 converting the electrical communication signals into optical communication signals;

5 passively splitting the optical communication signals into two components;

6 routing the two components of the optical communication signals at a first location
7 along the optical bus and permitting the optical signals already on the optical bus traveling in
8 both directions to be passively routed pass the first location, the routing involving directing
9 the two components of the optical communication signals in opposite directions along the
10 optical bus and combining the two components with any optical signals already on the
11 optical bus;

12 at a second location along the optical bus, passively diverting at least some of the
13 optical signals on the bus traveling in both directions toward a second node, wherein the
14 diverting includes permitting the optical signals traveling in both directions to be passively
15 routed pass the second location;

16 converting the optical signals diverted toward the second node into corresponding
17 electrical signals, with the electrical signals including the electrical communication signals
18 generated at the first node; and

19 amplifying the optical signals traveling in both directions between the first node and
20 the second node, wherein the amplifying is performed passively and is for compensating for
21 at least some of the losses associated with diverting the optical signals toward the second
22 node.

1 59. The method as set forth in claim 58, further comprising:

2 generating second electrical communication signals at the second node;

3 converting the second electrical communication signals into second optical
4 communication signals;

5 passively splitting the second optical communication signals into two components of
6 the second optical communication signals;

7 routing the two components of the second optical communication signals at the
8 second location along the optical bus and permitting the optical signals already on the optical
9 bus traveling in both directions to be passively routed pass the second location, the routing
10 involving directing the two components of the second optical communication signals in
11 opposite directions along the optical bus and combining the two components of the second
12 optical communication signals with any optical signals already on the optical bus; and

13 at a third location along the optical bus, passively diverting at least some of the
14 optical signals on the bus traveling in both directions toward a third node, wherein the
15 diverting includes permitting the optical signals traveling in both directions to be passively
16 routed pass the third location.

1 60. The method as set forth in claim 59, wherein generating the second electrical
2 communication signals at the second node and converting the optical signals diverted toward
3 the second node into corresponding electrical signals occur simultaneously.

1 61. The method as set forth in claim 58, further comprising sending the
2 corresponding electrical communication signals to terminal equipment.

1 62. The method as set forth in claim 61, wherein sending comprises sending the
2 corresponding electrical communication signals to a plurality of terminal equipment.

1 63. The method as set forth in claim 61, wherein sending comprises sending the
2 corresponding electrical communication signals to a translation logic device.

1 64. The method as set forth in claim 61, wherein sending comprises sending the
2 corresponding electrical communication signals to a plurality of translation logic devices.

1 65. The method as set forth in claim 58, wherein passively diverting at the second
2 location comprises selecting optical signals at a set of wavelengths.

1 66. The method as set forth in claim 58, wherein passively diverting at the second
2 location comprises diverting a fraction of the optical signals at all wavelengths.

1 67. The method as set forth in claim 58, wherein passively diverting at the second
2 location comprises selectively tuning a filter to a desired wavelength to select optical signals
3 at that desired wavelength.

1 68. The method as set forth in claim 58, further comprising providing a back up
2 optical bus.

1 69. A method of transporting optical signals between nodes, comprising:

2 providing a bi-directional optical bus, the bi-directional optical bus permitting bi-
3 directional communication between any of the nodes;

4 passively diverting at least part of the optical signals traveling along the bus in both
5 directions toward each node;

6 converting electrical signals generated at any of the nodes into converted optical
7 signals;

8 separating the converted optical signals into two components and passively

9 combining the two components of the converted optical signals with the optical signals

10 traveling in both directions along the optical bus, wherein the passively combining involves

11 directing the two components of the converted optical signals in opposite directions along the
12 optical bus;

13 receiving at each node at least part of the optical signals traveling along the optical
14 bus;

15 at the nodes, converting the received optical signals back into corresponding the
16 electrical signals; and

17 providing passive amplification of the optical signals traveling along the optical bus,
18 the passive amplification being bi-directional and compensating at least for some of the
19 losses associated with passively diverting the optical signals to each node;

20 wherein by passively diverting optical signals from the optical bus to each node and
21 by passively combining the two components of converted optical signals from each node
22 onto the optical bus, each node can transmit optical signals to any other node and also
23 receive optical signals from any other node.

1 70. The method as set forth in claim 69, further comprising operating at least some
2 of the nodes in full duplex such that each node can simultaneously transmit optical signals
3 and at the same receive optical signals from another node.

4 71. The method as set forth in claim 69, wherein receiving at each node at least
5 part of the optical signals traveling along the optical bus comprises selecting optical signals
6 having only certain wavelengths.

7 72. The method as set forth in claim 69, wherein receiving at each node at least
8 part of the optical signals traveling along the optical bus comprises filtering out a group of
9 the optical signals.

1 73. The method as set forth in claim 69, wherein receiving at each node at least
2 part of the optical signals traveling along the optical bus comprises wavelength division
3 multiplexing the optical signals on the bus.

1 74. The method as set forth in claim 69, further comprising providing a back up
2 bi-directional optical bus.

1 75. An optical transport system enabling optical communications between
2 terminal equipment, comprising:
3 an optical bus for permitting bi-directional transmission of the optical signals;
4 first terminal equipment for generating electrical communication signals;
5 an electrical-to-optical converter for converting the electrical communication signals
6 received from the first terminal equipment into optical communication signals;
7 a first passive optical interface device coupled to the optical bus at a first location for
8 routing the optical communication signals received from the electrical-to-optical converter
9 onto the optical bus in both directions and for permitting the optical signals traveling along
10 the optical bus to pass by in both directions;
11 a second passive optical interface device coupled to the optical bus at a second
12 location for routing the optical communication signals traveling along the bus to at least one
13 optical-to-electrical converter and for permitting the optical signals traveling along the
14 optical bus to pass by in both directions;
15 at least one optical-to-electrical converter for receiving the optical communication
16 signals from the second passive optical interface device and for converting the optical
17 communication signals into the electrical communication signals;
18 a plurality of terminal equipment for receiving the electrical communication signals
19 from the at least one optical-to-electrical converter; and
20 an optical amplifier for performing bi-directional amplification of the optical signals;

21 wherein electrical communication signals from first terminal equipment is transmitted
22 over the bi-directional optical bus and can be received by at least one of the plurality of
23 terminal equipment.

1 76. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 75, wherein the system
2 includes a plurality of optical-to-electrical converters, each receiving the optical
3 communication signals from the second passive optical interface device.

4 77. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 76, wherein the plurality of
5 terminal equipment receive the electrical communication signals from a respective one of the
6 plurality of optical-to-electrical converters.

7 78. The optical transport system as set forth in claim 75, wherein the plurality of
8 terminal equipment receive the electrical communication signals from the one optical-to-
9 electrical converter.

1 79. An optical system for communicating with at least one other system over a bi-
2 directional optical bus, comprising:
3 an optical transmitter for receiving a first set of electrical signals and for producing a
4 first set of optical signals;
5 a passive optical interface device for being coupled to the optical bus for routing the

first set of optical signals received from the optical transmitter onto the optical bus in both
directions and for permitting optical signals already traveling along the optical bus to pass by
in both directions;

an optical receiver for receiving a second set of optical signals traveling along the
optical bus from the passive optical interface device and for generating a second set of
electrical signals; and

an optical amplifier for performing bi-directional amplification of at least one of the
first set and second set of optical signals;

wherein the optical amplifier is for compensating for at least some of the coupling
losses associated with the passive optical interface device.

80. The optical communication system as set forth in claim 79, wherein the optical
amplifier is placed between the optical transmitter and the passive optical interface device
and compensates for coupling losses associated with routing the first set of optical signals in
both directions along the optical bus.

81. The optical communication system as set forth in claim 79, wherein the optical
amplifier is placed between the optical receiver and the passive optical interface device and
amplifies the second set of optical signals.

82. The optical communication system as set forth in claim 79, wherein the optical

2 amplifier is placed on the optical bus and is for amplifying the optical signals traveling along
3 the optical bus.

1 83. The optical communication system as set forth in claim 79, wherein the
2 passive optical interface device isolates the optical receiver from the optical transmitter such
3 that the optical transmitter and optical receiver can operate in full duplex mode.

4 84. A structure equipped with an optical system for communicating with at least
5 one other system over a bi-directional optical bus, comprising:

6 the structure;

7 an optical transmitter contained within the structure for receiving a first set of
8 electrical signals and for producing a first set of optical signals;

9 a passive optical interface device contained within the structure for being coupled to
10 the optical bus for routing the first set of optical signals received from the optical transmitter
11 onto the optical bus in both directions and for permitting optical signals already traveling
12 along the optical bus to pass by in both directions;

13 an optical receiver contained within the structure for receiving a second set of optical
14 signals traveling along the optical bus from the passive optical interface device and for
15 generating a second set of electrical signals; and

16 an optical amplifier contained within the structure for performing bi-directional
17 amplification of at least one of the first set and second set of optical signals;

15 wherein the optical amplifier is for compensating for at least some of the coupling
16 losses associated with the passive optical interface device.

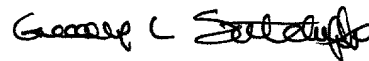
1 85. A method for communicating at a first node with a second node over a bi-
2 directional optical bus, comprising:
3 generating a first set of electrical signals at the first node;
4 converting the first set of electrical signals into a first set of optical signals;
5 passively splitting the first set of optical communication signals into two components;
6 routing the two components of the first set of optical signals along the optical bus and
7 permitting the optical signals already on the optical bus traveling in both directions to be
8 passively routed pass the first node, the routing involving directing the two components of
9 the first set of optical signals in opposite directions along the optical bus and combining the
10 two components with any optical signals already on the optical bus;
11 passively diverting toward the first node, a second set of optical signals which are
12 generated by the second node and which are on the bus traveling in both directions, wherein
13 the diverting includes permitting at least some of the optical signals traveling in both
14 directions to be passively routed pass the first node;
15 converting the second set of optical signals into a second set of electrical signals; and
16 amplifying the optical signals traveling in both directions between the first node and
17 the second node, wherein the amplifying is performed passively and is for compensating for
18 at least some of the losses associated with diverting the optical signals toward the first node.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being submitted to present additional claims directed to patentable aspects of the invention. Claims 1 to 85 are now pending in the application with claims 19 to 85 being newly added. Support for the claims may be found in the original patent application; no new matter has been entered. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the application in even better form, such as to result in a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: L6780/251099